



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
152 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

ANNE H. JORDAN  
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW  
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2009  
9:00 AM  
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES (FINAL)

Members Present: Wayne Werts, Chair; Tim Beals, Chair-elect, Ken Albert, Roy Woods, Judy Gerrish, Peter DiPietrantonio, Percy Thibeault, Paul Knowlton, Richard Doughty, Lori Metayer, Bob Hand, Steve Leach, Joe Conley, Ron Jones, Steve Diaz (ex-officio)

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Jan Brinkman, Dawn Kinney, Alan Leo, Drexell White

Regional Coordinators: Donnie Carroll, Steve Corbin, Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie

Office of the Attorney General: Lara Nomani, Esq., AAG

Guests: David Robie, Dolph Holmes, Eric Wellman, Paul Salway, Jeff Rowe, Mike Mirisola, Mike Barter, Brian Chamberlin, Dan Batsie, Steve Bunker, Tony Attardo, John Dovinsky, Alan Levenson

1. Introductions – Percy Thibeault was welcomed as a new member representing Aroostook EMS and others present introduced themselves.
2. Minutes

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 5, 2008, meeting with the attendance list corrected. (Woods; second by Leach). Unanimous**

3. Public Comments – Steve Bunker, ESCB, extended greetings from Director Maria Jacques and provided an update on the completion of the network transition from Verizon to Fairpoint. From the E-9-1-1 standpoint, the transition seems to have gone smoothly. ESCB and MEMS are working on the transition to Priority Dispatch, which includes dispatcher training and EMD QA.
4. Medical Director Report – Dr. Diaz provided an overview of the state's mental health system and how trends in caring for mental health patients has both increased and shifted over time. He then updated the Board on MDPB activities, which include:
  - Discussion about airway management concerns about the lack of information regarding high risk procedures such as endotracheal intubations.

- Development of Disaster Protocols, Wilderness Medicine Protocols, and Specialty or Expanded Treatment Protocols. There are sub committees working on each of this with a goal of creating companion books to the current MEMS Treatment Protocols.
- PIFT Survey – Joanne LeBrun has drafted a Survey Monkey online survey that will be sent to PIFT services, providers, and medical directors to learn about their experiences with PIFT. The MDPB and QI Committees are both interested in learning more about the medical direction being provided, the QA/QI programs, and any problems that have been encountered.
- Talked about the advantages of having an Assistant State EMS Medical Director and a transition plan where the Asst. Medical Director and the State Medical Director switch roles for a period of time to facilitate a smooth transfer of responsibilities. Jay mentioned that he will be working on securing funding for this position, and the consensus among Board members was supportive for this type of plan.
- Dr. Colin Coor has been nominated by Mid Coast EMS to serve as Regional Medical Director, replacing Dr. David Ettinger.

**MOTION: To approve the appointment of Dr. Colin Coor, as the Regional Medical Director for Mid Coast EMS. (Leach; second by Doughty) Unanimous.**

5. Old Business – none.

6. New Business

1. Legislative & Budget Update – Jay reported on bills that MEMS is following. DPS is scheduled to make a preliminary budget presentation to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee on February 6. Formal budget hearings and work sessions will follow in the coming weeks.
2. Committee Reports
  - i. Education – Discussion continued on the Training Center Approval Process (TCAP). There were several minor edits that were identified and corrected. Dan Batsie and staff responded to questions regarding the TCAP. Staff has started drafting an FAQ that will be posted on the MEMS web site.

**MOTION: To approve the Training Center Approval Process and to make TCAP optional for classes starting in September 2009, and mandatory for classes starting after January 1, 2010. (Metayer; second by Gerrish). Carried with 9 in favor and 5 opposed (Jones, Woods, Conley, DiPietrantonio, and Thibeault)**

- ii. EMD – Drexell reported that the first cycle of license renewals took place in January and that he has been working with ESCB on Priority Dispatch initial training and continuing education.
- iii. Exam – Drexell reported that the Committee continues its work on the Intermediate exam and the Exam Administration Manual. The report from the NREMT showed that Maine's pass/fail rate is similar to that of other states for

the BLS tests, and well above national rates for the Paramedic test; however, the denominator for these tests so far is rather low.

- iv. Other – Wayne asked that the Committee working on the EMS system design convene and continue working on different straw man models. The Committee consists of: Ken Albert, Tim Beals, Ron Jones, Roy Woods, Judy Gerrish, and Wayne Werts.

3. Other

- i. Southern Maine EMS EMT-Intermediate Course. An issue has arisen with an SMEEMS approved an EMT-I course that was taught by Mike Barter, whose I/C certification expired mid-course. Discussion took place about the process used by SMEEMS to approve courses and the Board expressed its concern that this is the 5<sup>th</sup> course in the past 18 months that has had an issue with an expired I/C.

Mr. Barter and Donnie Carroll responded to questions by the Board, and on behalf of SMEEMS, Donnie requested a waiver of the I/C requirement,

The Board worked through the waiver factors in the Rules that must be considered and made the following findings:

- SMEEMS did not take reasonable steps to ascertain and comply with the Rules.
- SMEEMS was not given inaccurate information by an agent or employee of the state.
- There is potential harm to the students if the waiver is not granted.
- Waiving the rule could pose a health or safety risk to the public at large or a particular individual or community.
- Establishing a waiver in this case would establish a precedent that could hinder the Board or MEMS.

After reviewing whether these factors, the following motion was made:

**MOTION: To deny the waiver request of Chapter 8 Sec 1, sub section 1.E, based upon the failure of SMEEMS to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances. (Albert; second by Metayer). Carried with 8 in favor; 1 opposed (Leach), and 1 abstain (DiPietrantonio). Ron Jones recused himself from the discussion and vote because he is a member of the SMEEMS Board of Directors.**

The Board then requested that SMEEMS work with MEMS to develop an education plan that would address the educational needs of the students and respond to the concerns expressed through student evaluations regarding certain portions of the program.

7. Staff Reports

1. MEMSRR Update – Jay reported that letters were sent regarding the one time extension to April 1, 2009, for services to complete their implementation of e-run reporting. In Ben's absence, Karen and Jay have been taking care of roster changes and other MEMSRR support issues.

2. Staff Update – Jay reported that applications for the Data & Preparedness Coordinator position closed on January 23, and that interviews were being scheduled with the top candidates.
3. Upcoming activities:
  - i. Medical Director Overview Course scheduled for March 2 as part of the ACEP Winter Symposium has been cancelled due to lack of registrations.
  - ii. EMS Manager Course – the 3<sup>rd</sup> session in this program will be offered on February 6 and has reached maximum registration (50).
  - iii. Education Standards / Accreditation workshop will be held on February 13. Dan Manz (VT EMS) will discuss the Education Agenda for the Future, Scope of Practice, and the transition to National Educational Standards. George Hatch, Ed.D, Executive Director of CoAEMSP will do a presentation on Accreditation and the application process.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 @ 9:00.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM